

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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SUBJECT: ABA VISIT COMMUNIQUE

REFS: (A) MONTEVIDEO 1178, (B) MONTEVIDEO 1182
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1. SHORTLY AFTER ABA MISSION LEADER WILLIAM J. BUTLER LEFT THE COUNTRY (APRIL 7), WE LEARNED THAT GOU PLANNED TO HOLD UP RELEASE OF THE COMMUNIQUE HE HAD AGREED TO IN HIS MEETING WITH THE CINCS UNTIL A STATEMENT OF THE GOU POSITION COULD BE ISSUED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THIS WAS TOLD TO US FIRST BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER JUAN CARLOS BLANCO IN A CONVERSATION MIDDAY SATURDAY. HE SAW NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES BEHIND THIS DECISION, VIEWING IT SIMPLY AS THE FELT NEED OF THE GOU TO GIVE THE URUGUAYAN PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF ITS REACTION TO THE ABA SUGGESTIONS. COL. ESCOBAL, THE MILITARY ESCORT FOR THE ABA TEAM REPEATED THE SAME VERSION TO LUIS REQUE AND THE DCM AT THE AIRPORT THAT EVENING.

2. WE LEARNED APRIL 10 THAT THE GOU EXPLANATORY STATEMENT WAS DRAFTED BY A TEAM HEADED BY GEN. RAPELA, THAT INCLUDED THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, BAYARDO BENGEOA, AND THE PRESI-

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DENT OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COURT, COL. SILVA LEDESMA. MANY IN THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE DRAFTING NOR WERE THEY AWARE THAT THE DECISION TO PUBLISH THE ABA MEMORANDUM CAME AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE CINCS AT THE FRIDAY MORNING MEETING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS MUCH DISCUSSION GOING ON WITHIN VARIOUS LEADERSHIP LEVELS IN THE GOU AS TO THE ADVISABILITY

OF HAVING AGREED TO PUBLICATION OF THE ABA RECOMMENDATIONS, AND EVEN MORE CONSTERNATION OVER THE TONE AND CONTENT OF THE GOU RESPONSE.

3. SINCE BUTLER WILL BE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 11 TO TESTIFY ON THE HILL, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF HE COULD BE CONTACTED AND MADE AWARE OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT AMONG OTHER THINGS THE FOLLOWING POINTS BE EMPHASIZED TO BUTLER:

A. THE INITIATIVE TO PUBLISH YOUR AIDE MEMOIRE APPARENTLY DID NOT HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF ALL SECTORS OF THE GOU. INDEED, SOME IMPORTANT ELEMENTS WERE NOT EVEN AWARE THAT THE INITIATIVE TO DO SO CAME FROM THE CINCS.

B. THERE WAS CONSTERNATION HERE THAT THE RELEASE OF YOUR AIDE MEMOIRE AND THE GOU RESPONSE (THE LATTER INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION) COULD HAVE IN SOME WAY ENDANGERED THEIR RELATIONS WITH YOU. THERE IS ALSO CONCERN THAT THESE TWO ACTIONS MAY HAVE CURTAILED YOUR FLEXIBILITY AS WELL AS THAT OF THE GOU.

C. IT APPEARS THAT THE AGREEMENTS YOU REACHED WITH THE CINCS AT THE FRIDAY MEETING STILL HOLDS, BUT IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE CINCS HAVE TRANSMITTED THEIR COMMITMENTS TO OTHER LEVELS WITHIN THE GOU.

D. THE BOTTOM LINE NATURALLY IS WHETHER THEY COMPLY WITH THEM. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO MONITOR PROGRESS AND WILL KEEP YOU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMED. BUT RETURN VISIT BY YOUR OR ONE OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES LATE IN THE YEAR SEEMS EVEN MORE NECESSARY.

E. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE, USING AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS AS YOUR INTERMEDIARY. YOU SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH JUAN CARLOS BLANCO WHEN YOU SEE HIM IN NEW YORK. KEEP ME INFORMED OF THE SUBSTANCE OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS SO I CAN HELP AT THIS END.

F. AS SOON AS THE DUST SETTLES A BIT MORE, I WILL SEND YOU A FULLER EXPLANATION OF THE LOCAL SETTING FOLLOWING YOUR DEPARTURE.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BUTLER'S REACTION TO THE GOU'S EXPLANATORY STATEMENT AND ANY OTHER REFLECTIONS HE MAY HAVE ON HIS RECENT VISIT.
PEZZULLO

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